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March 9, 2012

The Honorable Paul Cook
California State Assembly
State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 1556 (Cook) – As introduced January 26, 2012 – SPONSOR

Dear Assemblyman Cook:

The County of San Bernardino is pleased to sponsor AB 1556. This legislation would address a \$16 million inequity that resulted from AB 94, which was signed into law last year.

As you know, the Public Safety and Officer Rehabilitation Service Act of 2007 (AB 900) authorized up to \$1.2 billion of funds for county jail construction. The County's Adelanto Detention Center expansion project, which is currently under construction, was ranked number one on the list of entities to be conditionally awarded funds under the AB 900 and will increase the County's jail capacity by 1,368 beds. As a requirement for funding, the County was required to provide a local match of 25 percent.

Last year, AB 94 reduced county match requirements for jail construction from 25 percent to 10 percent; however, the County was precluded from benefiting from the lower match which resulted in a \$16 million impact. As the first county in the state to break ground under AB 900, we partnered with the state to create the framework for agreements and financing models to be replicated by other counties, thereby expediting subsequent projects towards the aims of reducing overcrowding in county jail systems.

Similar to other counties, the fiscal conditions of these challenging economic times have forced us to make difficult decisions to ensure the continued delivery of services to our residents. Over the past several years, the County has invested a significant amount of resources towards this project making it impossible to ignore unfair and exclusionary measures.

For these reason, the San Bernardino Board of Supervisors is pleased to sponsor AB 1556. We thank you for championing this effort and for availing for us the financial considerations currently available to other counties. If you have any questions, please contact Josh Candelaria, Deputy Legislative Director, at (909) 387-4280.

Sincerely,

Josie Gonzales, Chair
Board of Supervisors

The mission of the government of the County of San Bernardino is to satisfy its customers by providing service that promotes the health, safety, well being, and quality of life of its residents according to the County Charter, general laws, and the will of the people it serves.